

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2014-15 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of February 2, 2015

MAIL SHACK CREEK AREA

No hunter reports from this area on how many birds have worked their way back into the area or success; however there were birds in a few of the fields over the weekend with vehicles in each of the parking lots. The trails going into the parking areas dried out a lot last week and with the small amount of snow we received over the weekend they will hopefully continue to be open.

REGISTRATION AREA

Hunters in the decoy only registration fields have continued to have some good days but then follow it up with a very tough day depending on the area they are hunting. Most of last week the birds were moving not much after sunrise giving the hunters some good hunting. The cooler temperatures slowed the early flight down but have allowed all of the registration fields to reopen. The amount of snow received in the area is minimal; hopefully it will not cause any muddy conditions as the temperatures start to rise again later this week. To view the status of areas open or closed to hunting along with the types of crops in the fields at the bottom of the Lower Oahe page or by downloading the app to your smart phone.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

Some of the pass shooting areas produced some good opportunities over the weekend with the strong winds on Saturday and fresh snow and winds on Sunday. The pits in the Mail Shack Area had a few pass shooters in the pits over the weekend but no reports on their success. The canal area had a few birds moving over them late last week and weekend but no reports on success.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

Reports coming in from Stanley County area fields are that the birds that have been going there regularly has slowed to just a few birds and that it is hard to get a pattern on when and where they will come into the fields from. The solid green colored area west of 1804 had a few birds in and around them this past week and weekend with a few hunters having some good success putting out some decoys in the fields. The striped green colored fields east of Grey Goose Road continues to have birds in the area but it has been hard to get a pattern on them. Hunters in this area have been reporting of having mixed results depending on if the birds that are going there decide to fly early or later in the day.

SUMMARY

Hunters planning a trip out for the last couple of weeks of the season are reminded they will need to make sure they have the correct 2015 hunting licenses; the Federal Waterfowl Stamp remains valid until the end of June. The numbers of birds in the areas were changing on a daily basis last week with birds moving in from the south and birds from this area moving north. The warm temperatures everyone was experiencing the last couple of weeks started getting the birds moving back up from the south making it hard for the hunters to get a pattern on the fields they are going to feed in. The birds were on an early morning flight this past week but since the cooler temperatures they started coming out much later. Hopefully as the temperatures start to increase again later this week the birds will again be moving earlier in the morning. Some birds in the Mail Shack Area have continued to come out by mid-morning with the majority waiting until late in the afternoon to fly out to the fields. Access into all of the areas has improved since last week with most of the trails drying out making it a lot easier for the hunters to access fields or parking areas.

The decoy loaner trailers continue to be busy, being used most weekends and several of the week days. The doodle pages to reserve these trailers are updated each Sunday; the page allows hunters to reserve the trailers up to two weeks in advance. Information about the trailers and how to reserve them along with the liability waiver that will need to be filled out and signed can be found on the Lower Oahe Waterfowl page below the link to this report.